

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 St. Francis St.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Telephone: (505) 476-3400

MINING INSPECTION REPORT

Name of Operator: United Nuclear Corporation (UNC)
Name of Mine: Anne-Lee and John-Bill Mines
Address: P.O. Box 3077, Gallup, NM 87305
Permit Number: MK027PR and MK028PR
Commodity: Prior Reclamation Uranium Sites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SURFACE <input type="checkbox"/> UNDERGROUND
Date of Inspection: 11-15-2007
Time of On-Site Inspection: 10:30 ~15:30
Weather Conditions: ~55° to 65°F, cool/mild, dry, mostly clear, breezy
Purpose of Inspection: Re-Vegetation Success Monitoring & Prior Reclamation Inspection
Lead Inspector: Holland Shepherd – MMD
Present During Inspection: MMD: Holland Shepherd, James Hollen, Susan Lucas-Kamat; UNC: Larry Bush + one field staff
ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN: None
NOTICE OF VIOLATION: # _____ YES: _____ NO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
CESSATION ORDER: YES: _____ NO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
Time: On-Site: <u>5</u> Permit Review: <u>2</u> Travel: <u>6</u> Report Writing: <u>2</u>
TOTAL INSPECTION TIME: <u>15</u> HOURS
NOTES: Both of the reclaimed uranium mine sites, Anne-Lee and John-Bill, are situated within the Ambrosia Lake Mining District, located approx. 20 miles north-northwest of Grants off State Rd. 509 in McKinley County, New Mexico. A series of locked gates require access permission obtained through UNC. A high clearance, 4WD vehicle is required when surface conditions are wet or snow covered. Anne-Lee Mine: (T 14 N, R 9 W, Sec. 27, N.M.P.M.) John-Bill Mine: (T 14 N, R 9 W, Sec. 34, N.M.P.M.) U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series Quadrangle Map: <i>Ambrosia Lake</i>

from NMMA and must be permitted as an Existing Mining Operation.

MMD extends UNC's 1998 Variance through CY 2000.

UNC's Variance expired in 2000 and since, UNC has failed to permit the Anne-Lee and John Bill Sites which have been determined by MMD to qualify as existing mines under NMSA 1978, Section 69-36-3 (E).

2007 – MMD conducts a review of previously active uranium mine sites in New Mexico, including UNC's Anne-Lee and John-Bill Sites.

June 15, 2007 – MMD informs UNC that the permitting compliance issues must be finally resolved either by conducting current site inspections to determine compliance with the Act, or by MMD filing motion with the NM Mining Commission requesting dismissal of UNC's appeal for non-prosecution.

July 10, 2007 – UNC agrees to allow MMD access to the Anne-Lee and John-Bill sites for inspection.

November 15, 2007 – Site Inspections completed by MMD at the Anne-Lee and John-Bill sites. Evaluation of data is ongoing and compliance determinations are pending from MMD.

INSPECTION NARRATIVE:

The site inspections were arranged by MMD through Larry Bush of UNC. MMD personnel met Larry Bush and one other UNC field staffer in Grants, and then followed Larry to the Ambrosia Lake District. In addition to observing the current status of each of the reclaimed sites for overall integrity and erosional stability, the purpose of the site inspections was to conduct vegetation monitoring and sampling transects to observe progress and determine success of ongoing re-vegetation efforts carried out at each site. Initial site re-vegetation efforts have failed to meet success criteria for release under prior reclamation and results from vegetative sampling conducted by MMD during the last site inspections completed in summer of 1995 indicated that, neither the Anne Lee site, nor the John Bill site, had reached required plant density or species diversity for release from the NMMA. The surfaces of both sites were highly erodible and very dry and according to Larry, the general area had not received any significant or measurable precipitation in over two months.

The Anne-Lee Mine consists of a reclaimed, concrete-plugged and buried mine shaft feature situated within an area approximately 1/10 acre in size. While the immediate area of the reclaimed shaft was re-seeded in 1994, prior to that, the surrounding area associated with the Anne-Lee Mine was reclaimed in the early 90's as part of the UMTRCA Title 1 reclamation completed by the DOE. The feature consists of a roughly square shaped, mound-like expression, rising approximately 20' above the surrounding land surface. A sealed, underground mine vent shaft feature and a groundwater monitoring well are also present in the immediate area and GPS locations of these features were acquired. Moderately steep outcrops extend some 40' to 60' outward from a slightly depressed and undulating, but generally flat, top-surface. Only the top surface of the feature is fenced to exclude cattle from grazing in the area and to protect the re-vegetation and reclamation aspects of the site from erosion issues and unauthorized grazing. Cattle activity along the unfenced outcrops of the feature have impacted existing vegetation and disturbed the surface soils creating potential erosion problems although no immediate erosion issues were observed. Although Larry Bush indicated that the shaft has settled and subsided on

community.

GPS coordinates were acquired at each of the locations designating the point of beginning and ending for both transects completed on the John-Bill site. The vegetation transect surveys completed at the John-Bill site were randomly generated and established by utilizing the same sampling grid and methodologies established during previous vegetation transect surveys completed in October 1998.

Because no vegetation reference area exists for either the Anne-Lee or the John-Bill sites, by which to judge whether the sites allow for designation as a self-sustaining ecosystem pursuant to the Act, the reference standard used for comparison by MMD in this case, is the NRCS Range Site Description for this area designated by the NRCS as WP-2, Sandy. Further statistical analyses using the quantitative results obtained from each vegetation transect survey completed on both sites will be required to determine whether the average percent cover values for each site have been attained and meet re-vegetation success criteria for release from the Act.

Upon completion of the vegetation transect surveys of the John-Bill; MMD concluded the site inspection by briefly discussing with Larry, the path forward. MMD indicated that based on lack of vegetation and overall poor field conditions observed at the Anne-Lee reclamation, release based on prior reclamation for this site was unlikely and that at minimum, the site would need re-seeding. MMD indicated that because the John-Bill site exhibited more successfully established re-vegetation conditions, results of pending statistical analysis of the transect data would have to be completed prior to MMD's determination of compliance with the Act.

ACTION ITEMS:

Complete statistical analysis of data obtained from vegetation transect surveys.

Recommend a seed-mix suitable for UNC to utilize in future re-vegetation efforts at the Anne-Lee Site.

Determine compliance with the Act.

PHOTOS:

Photos taken during this field inspection can be found archived at the following location:
L:\MARF\PriorReclamation

MAINTENANCE ITEMS:

Recommend that UNC extend fencing to include outcrops of the mound feature and exclude cattle from all reclaimed areas at the Anne-Lee Site. Fencing should be in accordance with NMDG&F Fencing Guidelines.

Recommend that UNC reseed the entire Anne-Lee reclamation area. The area should be mulched and re-seeded by hand broadcasting and raking an approved seed-mix into the surface. A recommended seed mix consisting of grasses and forbs, as well as, the suggested rates of application are specified below in lbs. pure live seed (PLS) per acre (lbs./ac.):

Blue Grama – Hatchita 1.0
Crested Wheat Grass 5.0
Western Wheat Grass 2.5

SHEET 1 OF 2

Site Name ANN LEE / UNC

Date 111507

Location AMBROSIA LAKE DIST.

Grid TOP SURFACE OF SEALED SHAFT NE → SW TEND

Transect Description 1 FOOT INTERVAL

Investigators SHEPHERD HOLLEN LUCAS-KAMAT

1 CO	2 CO	3 CO	4 RT	5 BG
6 RT	7 RT	8 L	9 RT	10 RT
11 RT	12 BG	13 BG	14 BG	15 BG
16 BG	17 BG	18 BG	19 BG	20 L
21 BG	22 RT	23 BG	24 BG	25 BG
26 BG	27 BG	28 BG	29 RT	30 BG
31 BG	32 BG	33 BG	34 BG	35 BG
36 IRG	37 IRG	38 AST	39 BG	40 BG
41 BG	42 BG	43 L	44 IRG	45 L
46 BG	47 AST	48 AST	49 BG	50 AST

Total Rock % _____

Total Bare Ground % _____

Total Grass % _____ Total Perennial % _____ Total Annual % _____

Total Forb % _____

Total Litter % _____

BG = BARE GRND

CO = COCHIA

AST = ASTER

RT = RUSSIAN THISTLE

L = LITTER

WG = WHEAT GRASS

IRG = INDIAN RICE GRASS

Site Name ANN LEE / UNCDate 7/15/07

Location _____

Grid TOP SURF NW → SE TREND

Transect Description _____

Investigators _____

1 L	2 BG	3 BG	4 BG	5 BG
6 BG	7 BG	8 BG	9 AST	10 BG
11 RT	12 RT	13 BG	14 RT	15 BG
16 RT	17 BG	18 AST	19 AST	20 L
21 L	22 WG	23 L	24 L	25 BG
26 L	27 RT	28 RT	29 BG	30 BG
31 RT	32 BG	33 L	34 BG	35 BG
36 L	37 BG	38 BG	39 BG	40 L
41 BG	42 RT	43 L	44 BG	45 BG
46 AST	47 AST	48 AST	49 BG	50 BG

Total Rock % _____

Total Bare Ground % _____

Total Grass % _____ Total Perennial % _____ Total Annual % _____

Total Forb % _____

Total Litter % _____

* SEE SHT 1 OF 2 FOR ABBREVIATIONS

Site Name: Ann Lee
 Operator: UNC
 Location: Ambrosia Lake District
 Grid: Surface of sealed shaft; inside fence
 Transect Number: 2
 Transect Description: SE corner to NW corner of fenced shaft
 Interval: 1 foot interval
 Date: 11/15/2007
 Investigators: Holland Shepherd, James Hollen, Susan Lucas Kamat

- 1 litter✓
- 2 bare ground✓
- 3 bare ground✓
- 4 bare ground✓
- 5 bare ground✓
- 6 bare ground✓
- 7 bare ground✓
- 8 bare ground✓
- 9 aster✓
- 10 bare ground✓
- 11 russian thistle✓
- 12 russian thistle✓
- 13 bare ground✓
- 14 russian thistle✓
- 15 bare ground✓
- 16 russian thistle✓
- 17 bare ground✓
- 18 aster✓
- 19 aster✓
- 20 litter✓
- 21 litter✓
- 22 wheat grass✓
- 23 litter✓
- 24 litter✓
- 25 bare ground✓
- 26 litter✓
- 27 russian thistle✓
- 28 russian thistle✓
- 29 bare ground✓
- 30 bare ground✓
- 31 russian thistle✓
- 32 bare ground✓
- 33 litter✓
- 34 bare ground✓
- 35 bare ground✓
- 36 litter✓
- 37 bare ground✓
- 38 bare ground✓
- 39 bare ground✓
- 40 litter✓
- 41 bare ground✓
- 42 russian thistle✓

- 43 litter✓
- 44 bare ground✓
- 45 bare ground✓
- 46 aster✓
- 47 aster✓
- 48 aster✓
- 49 bare ground✓
- 50 bare ground✓

70% NO
 Plants
 28% litter

LIT = 25

B 4